

Cover drawing by Cora Thiele.

Indiana Dunes Environmental Education

The Indiana dunes have a long, fascinating history of attracting scientists and students alike to study and explore its globally rare ecosystems. The process of unlocking the mysteries of the Indiana dunes began in the late 1800's with Dr. Henry Cowles and still continues today. In the spirit of further utilizing the Indiana dunes as an educational tool, organizations throughout the area offer a wide variety of environmental education programs. This guide, "Educational Adventures in the Dunes", provides a comprehensive list of the many programs available. It is designed to assist educators and youth group leaders in understanding and using the resources available to them.

The first section of the guide provides an at-a-glance matrix that lists the programs by age group. Next to each program listing is a page number that, if referenced, will provide more in depth information about the program. Each participating organization has their own section that explains their unique facilities and programs. Lastly, teachers' workshops are listed in the back.

The potential uses of the Indiana dunes as a valuable teaching tool are abundant. This guide will enable educators to choose the programs that are most appropriate for them and their particular group of learners.

at-a-glance matrix



Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore



Indiana Dunes State Park













Lake County Solid Waste Management District




Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary

Workshops for Educators and Group Leaders

programs offered	k-3	4-6	7-8	9-12					
Frog in the Bog		•			•	•	\$90	year round	2
Winter Survival in the Dunes		•	•	•	•	•	\$54	nov.-feb.	2
Mighty Acorns		•				•	no charge	sep.-may	2
Energy Matters		•	•		•	•	\$95	year round	2
DuneSCOPES				•	•	•	variable	year round	2
Discover	•					•	no charge	year round	4
The Chellbergs had a Farm	•					•	no charge	nov.-aug.	4
Talk with the Animals	•					•	no charge	spring/sum.	4
Winter Wonderland	•					•	no charge	winter	4
Mt. Baldy Moves/West Beach Walk	•					•	no charge	sp./sum./fall	4
Autumn Harvest	•	•	•	•		•	no charge	sep.-oct.	4
Maple Sugar Time	•	•	•	•		•	no charge	feb.-mar.	4
Maple Sugar Time-Advanced NEW!		•	•	•		•	no charge	march	5
Fall Fanfare	•	•				•	no charge	fall	5
Winter Exploration	•	•				•	no charge	winter	5
Potawatomis and Fur Traders	•	•	•			•	no charge	year round	5
A Grain of Truth		•	•	•		•	no charge	sp./sum./fall	5
Lake Michigan Alive		•	•	•		•	no charge	year round	5
Water World		•	•	•		•	no charge	year round	5
Habitat Hike		•	•	•		•	no charge	year round	6
Celebration Earth		•	•	•		•	no charge	spring/sum.	6
Reflections on Snow		•	•	•		•	no charge	winter	6
Pinhook Bog		•	•	•		•	no charge	apr.-nov.	6
Secrets of Succession			•	•		•	no charge	sp./sum./fall	6
Mighty Acorns NEW!			•			•	no charge	sep.-may	6
Dune SCOPES NEW!				•		•	no charge	year round	6
Potawatomis Ways Travelling Trunks NEW!	•	•				•	no charge	year round	6
Groundhog Day Celebration NEW!	•	•				•	no charge	winter	6

programs offered	k-3	4-6	7-8	9-12					
Touch the Earth	•						no charge	year round	8
Our Feathered Friends	•						no charge	year round	8
Habitat Happenings	•	•					no charge	year round	8
Beginning Birding	•	•	•	•			no charge	year round	8
A March Through Time	•	•	•	•			no charge	year round	8
Wetland Wonders	•	•	•				no charge	sp./sum./fall	8
Succession Stroll		•	•	•			no charge	year round	8
Ladybugs	•	•				•	no charge	year round	10
Buzzing a Hive	•	•				•	no charge	year round	10
Great Lake in a Bottle	•	•				•	no charge	year round	10
Worm World	•	•	•			•	no charge	year round	10
Earth Walks	•	•	•			•	no charge	year round	10
Homes in a Pond	•	•				•	no charge	year round	10
Butterflies P-3	•					•	no charge	year round	10
Audiovisual Material	•	•	•	•			no charge	year round	11
Research Library								call or email	11
Sanctuary Visits								call or email	11
Workshops, Consultations &...	•	•	•	•		•		call or email	11
Project Wild							\$5*	September	12
Project W.E.T.							\$15*	February	12
Project Learning Tree							\$5*	March	12
Great Lakes Teachers' Workshop							\$5*	June	12
Dunes Educator Institutes (See p.13)							See p.13	See p.13	13

legend

				
residential	standard-based	price	season/dates available	page found on in guide

*Programs and prices subject to change or cancellation without prior notification.



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established in 1966 "...to preserve for the educational, inspirational, and recreational use of the public certain portions of the Indiana dunes." Today the park is comprised of over 15,000 acres of dunes, oak savannas, swamps, bogs, marshes, prairies, rivers and wetlands. The amazing variety of natural communities located within such a small geographic area makes the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore a truly unique educational and recreational resource.

Thousands of students participate in education programs at the National Lakeshore every year. The park offers programs at various locations throughout Lake, LaPorte and Porter Counties, such as the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center, the historic areas of Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm, and the natural areas and trails throughout the park. It is a wonderful place to bring students for ranger-led programs or for self-guided programs. Teacher activity guides are available upon request for West Beach and Miller Woods or can be downloaded from the National Lakeshore's website.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

1100 North Mineral Springs Road • Porter, Indiana 46304

phone: 219-926-7561 ext. 243, or toll-free at 1-800-959-9174, ext. 243

www.nps.gov/indu/education --NEW! The National Lakeshore's website has a wealth of information for teachers and students. Students can play interactive games. Teachers can download activity guides, learn about professional development opportunities, and view a copy of this brochure.



Note - It is important to call on or after the following dates for ranger-led programs - 219-926-7561 ext. 243

Scheduling for fall programs that run
September 29 through November 14 begins August 27.

Scheduling for winter programs that run
December 1 through February 13 begins October 29.

Scheduling for Maple Sugar Time programs that run
March 3 through March 19 begins January 14.

Scheduling for spring/summer programs that run
April 5 through August 13 begins January 14.

Discover

Goal: Explore nature's diversity using the senses.

Discover the wonders of nature along a wooded trail by using your senses.

Program availability: Year round

Age group: Preschool-3rd grade **Max. group size:** 90

Location & Length: Douglas Center or Visitor Center, 1 hr.

The Chellbergs had a Farm

Goal: Experience and learn about Indiana's early farming traditions.

Step back in time and discover farm life in the early 1900's. Feed pigs, horses, chickens, and a cow. Play farm games and visit an old time farm house.

Program availability: November-August

Age group: Preschool-3rd grade **Max. group size:** 90

Location & Length: Chellberg Farm, 1 hr.

Talk With the Animals

Goal: Introduce young students to the variety of animals of the dunes.

Puppet characters come alive to tell a story of life in the forest. After the show, hike a trail to search for their friends.

Program availability: Spring/summer

Age group: Preschool-1st grade

Min./Max. group size: 40/70

Location & Length: Douglas Center or Visitor Center, 1 hr.

Winter Wonderland

Goal: Become familiar with the wonders of the winter season.

Puppet animals reveal adaptations of hibernation, migration, and food storage through an entertaining presentation. If weather permits, students will explore winter conditions during a short hike after the puppet show.

Program availability: Winter **Age group:** Preschool-1st grade

Min./Max. group size: 40/70

Location & Length: Douglas Center or Visitor Center, 1 hr.

Mount Baldy Moves or West Beach Walk

Goal: Explore the dunes and experience the forces of nature that created them.

Observe water, wind, and waves in action and learn how they work together to form mountains of sand.

Program availability: Spring/summer/fall

Age group: Preschool-3rd grade **Max. group size:** 90

Location & Length: Mount Baldy or West Beach, 1 hr.

Autumn Harvest

Goal: Experience old-time life on a farm in the fall.

Sample harvest time at a turn-of-the-century farm. Gather sorghum, press cider, help with chores or play farm games. Enjoy the sights and smells of an old-time farmhouse and barn.

Program availability: September 29 - October 17

Age group: All grades **Max. group size:** 60

Location & Length: Chellberg Farm, 1.75 hrs.

Maple Sugar Time

Goal: Learn and experience the making of this purely American product.

Learn about "horse-power", examine maple trees, and see the Native American, pioneer and sugar shack methods of making maple sugar and syrup. Tour the Chellbergs' 19th century farm house and visit the animals in the barn.

Program availability: March 3 - March 19

Age group: All grades **Max. group size:** 60

Location & Length: Chellberg Farm, 1.75 hrs..

Maple Sugar Time-Advanced NEW PROGRAM!

Goal: Investigate the science behind maple sugaring. Learn how farmers tend their "sugar bush."

Assist the park in monitoring the health of the maple trees at Chellberg Farm through hands-on research and management techniques.

Program availability: March 3 - March 19 (limited availability)

Age group: 6th-12th grade **Max. group size:** 30

Location & Length: Chellberg Farm, 2 hrs.

Fall Fanfare

Goal: Experience and learn about the changing of the seasons.

Cool weather and shorter days bring beautiful changes. Discover the flurry of activity as plants and animals prepare for winter. Students teach each other through presentations on fall topics before and during the field trip.

Program availability: Fall

Age group: 1st-6th grade **Max. group size:** 90

Location & Length: Kemil Beach or Douglas Center, 2 hrs.

Winter Exploration

Goal: Experience and learn about the beauty and ecology of winter.

Explore the beauty of the winter woods during a nature hike after viewing an indoor slide show focusing on animal adaptations. Learn how plants and animals adapt to winter. Snowshoes are provided. If there is insufficient snow, a hike will be led.

Program availability: Winter

Age group: 3rd-6th grades **Min./Max. group size:** 36

Location & Length: Visitor Center, 1.5 hrs.

Potawatomis and Fur Traders

Goal: Experience local history focusing on Native American lifestyles and the fur trade.

Journey back in time to learn about the lifestyles of the Native Americans, fur traders, and voyageurs during this period of change in Northwest Indiana.

Program availability: Year round except during Autumn Harvest

Age group: 3rd-8th grade **Min./Max. group size:** 90

Location & Length: Bailly Homestead, 2 hrs.

A Grain of Truth

Goal: Explore the dunes and gain a personal experience of how they came to be. Observe howling winds and powerful waves at work creating and eroding moving sand dunes. Hike the foredunes and beach to learn about the processes of dune building, glaciation and erosion.

Program availability: Spring/summer/fall

Age group: 4th-12th grade **Max. group size:** 90

Location & Length: West Beach or Mount Baldy, 1.5 hrs.

Lake Michigan Alive

Goal: Appreciate the diversity of life within this region's most important natural resource and learn about some of the issues facing Lake Michigan.

Dress a student as a fish. Play a food chain game. View preserved sea lamprey and trout. Students are encouraged to help care for the Great Lakes.

This program includes a trip out to the lake.

Program availability: Year round

Age group: 4th-12th grade **Max. group size:** 90

Location & Length: Douglas Center, 1.5 hrs. including beach hike

Water World

Goal: Experience and explore the diversity of life within a wetland.

Armed with nets and pans, investigate the rich diversity of pond life and learn the importance of conserving our water resources. For a more in-depth experience, students take the 3-hour hike option to explore Lake Michigan's water resources.

Program availability: Spring/summer/fall

Age group: 4th-12th grade **Max. group size:** 48

Location & Length: Douglas Center, 2 or 3 hrs.

No charge for any National Lakeshore programs.

Habitat Hike

Goal: Learn about the importance of biodiversity through a hike into the National Lakeshore's many habitats.

Discover why the Indiana dunes has almost 1400 species of plants, ranking it 4th highest of all National Park areas! Explore forest, dunes, a swamp, and sand prairie, while studying environmental factors that affect plant survival.

Program availability: Year round **Age group:** 4th-12th grade

Max. group size: 90 **Location & Length:** Kemil Beach Parking Lot, 2 hrs.

Celebration Earth

Goal: Appreciate the unique features of Miller Woods and understand some of the issues that face natural areas.

Join us to discover the beauty of the oak savannas, singing frogs, and wetland birds during a two and a half mile hike to dunes, ponds, and wetlands.

Program availability: Spring/summer **Age group:** 4th-12th grade

Min./Max. group size: 90 **Location & Length:** Douglas Center, 3 hrs.

Reflections on Snow

Goal: Appreciate and learn about the beauty and ecology of winter.

Discover the thrill of cross country skiing. Indoor activities explore tracking, predation, and winter habitats. Ski equipment provided. If snow is insufficient, a hike will be led.

Program availability: Winter **Age group:** 5th-12th grade

Max. group size: 60 **Location & Length:** Douglas Center, 2.5 hrs.

Pinhook Bog

Goal: Learn about and appreciate a rare, fragile gift of the glaciers.

Hike into the strange and unique world of the bog. Walk on a floating mat of sphagnum moss and discover insect-eating plants.

Program availability: Mid-April through mid-November

Age group: 6th-12th grade **Max. group size:** 30

Location & Length: Pinhook Bog (meet at the Visitor Center), 2 hrs. (includes travel time between VC and bog)

Secrets of Succession

Goal: Experience and appreciate the variety of plant communities found in the dunes. Follow the legacy of early dunes scientist Henry Chandler Cowles and hike from the beach over foredunes and through forests. By exploring the environment, discover the forces that shape the dunes and produce this unique succession of plants.

Program availability: Spring, summer, fall **Age group:** 7th-12th grade

Max. group size: 90 **Location & Length:** West Beach, 2 hrs.

Mighty Acorns - NEW!

This program for 4th-6th grades is offered in partnership with Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center and involves students in conducting restoration work on national lakeshore property.

For more information and to schedule a program, contact the IDELC at: 395-9555. See page 2 for more program information.

Dune SCOPES - NEW!

High school students get involved in authentic projects and restoration at the National Lakeshore. Conducted in partnership with the IDELC, this program can be a day or an overnight program.

For more information contact the park's coordinator at: 219-926-7561, ext. 246. See page 2 for program details.

Potawatomi Ways Travelling Trunks - NEW!

Two educational trunks are available for two week periods to teachers in grades 1-2 and 3-4 which focus on Potawatomi lifestyles, culture and the fur trade era. Activity guides and resources are included in the kits along with replicas of tools, artifacts and artworks

Contact the park's scheduling office to reserve a trunk.

Groundhog Day Celebration - NEW!

Goal: Celebrate an American tradition by learning interesting facts and stories about our largest rodent.

Through an interactive puppet show, students can predict the weather, make a craft and prepare for spring.

Program availability: January 27 - February 1

Age group: 1st-4th grade **Max. group size:** 70

Location & Length: Douglas Center or Visitor Center, 1.5 hrs.

Partners:



Eastern National is a non-profit organization that promotes the historical, scientific, and conservation activities of the National Park Service. Eastern National serves as the National Lakeshore's cooperating association.

FRIENDS OF *Indiana Dunes*

FRIENDS is a non-profit organization that sponsors a variety of park events and activities that enhance the understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the Indiana dunes.



Great Lakes Research
and Education Center

The Great Lakes Research and Education Center facilitates research in ten national parks within the Great Lakes Region, and brings new knowledge about our natural and cultural resources to the eyes of the public.



The Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center serves as an education center and environmental learning laboratory on the site of the National Park Service's Camp Good Fellow.



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established in 1966 to "to preserve for the educational, inspirational, and recreational use of the public certain portions of the Indiana dunes".



Lake County Solid Waste Management District is a government entity created to develop a plan for the management of solid waste in Lake County, Indiana with an extensive environmental education program.



Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary is a non-profit organization dedicated to education, research, and preservation of the natural history and ecology of the southern Lake Michigan region.



Save the Dunes Conservation Fund's mission is to protect and restore the Indiana dunes and surrounding natural resources through environmental research, legal safeguards, and strategic conservation initiatives.

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